non-teaching staff also. But, the Courts of certain Central Universities like those of the Viswabharati, Jamia Millia Islamia, Assam University, North-Eastern Hill University, which is NEHU, do not include representatives from the non-teaching staff. So, this is the decision which the university has to make and take by itself.

डॉ० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए० हेपतुल्ला: एक्च्युअली मुझे पहले क्वेश्चन पर सवाल पूछना था, वह भी जरूरी था। But, I will ask a question on this subject which is very important. Slowly and gradually, especially, education and higher education is becoming a private enterprise. Now, the Minister has replied that they are autonomous; the universities are autonomous bodies. But, is the Government thinking of finding any kind of a regulatory body or a supervising body to see that there are no irregularities in education especially?

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Minister answered in this House today that we are still in the category of a developing country even after more than half a century. When the Minister and the Government think that we will be in the category of a developed country?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, it has nothing to do with the question. ...(*Interruptions*)... But, with reference to the first part of the question pertaining to the regulation of deemed to be universities, the fee regulation, Sir, there is Committee that has been set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Shonde by the UGC which is looking into it. We are awaiting the recommendations of that Committee. Sir, once the recommendations come, it will be placed before the House.

डॉ० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए० हेपतुल्ला: क्या मैं दूसरा सवाल कर सकती हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: वह इससे रिलेटिड नहीं है। It is a valid question, but is not related to this.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: No Sir, it is an important question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, it is not related to it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I am asking it because the Minister answered it today. But, it is related to everything, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)... How long are we going to be considered a developing country, and showing figures which have got no relation to the world?

*389. [The questioner (SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI) was absent. For answer *vide* page 27]

Post-Matric scholarship for OBCs

*390. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is releasing Central assistance under the Post-Matric scholarship for other backward classes;

(b) if so, the details of the amount released during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) how much amount Government proposes to release in 2008-09, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise details of grants-in-aid released during last 3 years under the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme for OBC students are given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The budget provision under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC students for the year 2008-09 is Rs. 134.00 crore. This amount will be released to States/UTs on the basis of their demand, submission of utilization certificate of grants released in the previous years, and provision made for the committed liability.

Statement

State-wise details of grant-in-aid released under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs students during last 3 years

(In lakh Rs.)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Amount released		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	299.02	364.73	925.02
2.	Bihar	6.56	601.78	1436.49
3.	Goa	13.90	0.00	48.97
4.	Gujarat	344.12	401.96	223.92
5.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	396.59
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	35.57	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	224.24	0.00	210.22
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	143.50
9.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	560.45
10.	Karnataka	0.00	539.66	611.80
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	393.59
12.	Maharashtra	56.56	0.00	1950.36
13.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	51.87
14.	Punjab	138.42	0.00	468.59
15.	Rajasthan	235.24	351.80	431.68
16.	Tamil Nadu	290.25	500.00	1099.55
17.	Uttar Pradesh	640.31	671.56	2022.41
18.	Uttarakhand	72.53	81.94	0.00
19.	West Bengal	0.00	125.90	0.00
20.	Assam	0.00	1285.62	1208.32
21.	Manipur	183.34	200.70	120.56
22.	Tripura	111.13	160.52	128.59
23.	Sikkim	0.00	8.06	0.00
	Union Territories			
24.	Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	84.60
	TOTAL	2620.62	5329.80	12517.08

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in regard to release of grants for OBC students' scholarship. I would like to know whether there is any criterion decided by the Central Government, because I found that there are seven States which do not get even a single rupee under this category in 2006-07 as stated in the list given by the hon. Minister. I would like to know whether the Government has decided to any criterion for this.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: As has already been explained in the written reply to the question, the criterion is that for the grant which is released to the State, the State should send the utilization certificate. If we do not receive the utilization certificate, it becomes difficult to give the grant the next year. Then, there has to be a provision in the Budget of the State for committed liability. If we find that the Budget of the State does not make a provision for committed liability, then also it becomes difficult for the Centre to give grants.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: What is the scheme for students belonging to another category, the category of students who are economically backward, economically weak and who are below poverty-line? I would like to know whether there is any scheme for such students, the category mentioned in the question.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the question is not very clear. Do you mean the OBC students who are below poverty-line or the general students who are below poverty-line?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: My question is about the general students who are below poverty-line. I would like to know whether you are having any scheme to give this type of scholarships to them also.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: There are poverty alleviation programmes. But my Ministry is dealing with the SC and the OBC students. We have set up a Commission to study and give a report about the educational and other facilities that can be given to the economically backward. But the report is awaited. At the moment, whatever schemes we have are for the OBCs and the SC students.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदया ने जो प्रदेशों की सूची प्रकाशित की है, जो प्रदेशों को केन्द्रीय सहायता उपलब्ध करायी है, उसका लेखा-जोखा दिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वर्ष 2005-06, 2006-07 और 2007-08 में इन प्रदेशों की मांग क्या थी, क्योंकि यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट तो उसके बाद का विषय है और विशेषकर राजस्थान में, इन तीन वर्षों में राज्य सरकार ने क्या मांग की थी, उसको कितना पैसा मुहैया कराया गया है, कितना बकाया है और उसको आप कब तक देने वाली हैं?

श्रीमती मीरा कुमार: सर, जहां तक वर्ष 2006 से 2008 का सवाल है, सभी प्रांतों को 30 प्रांतों और यूनियन टेरेटरीज को मिलाकर 269 करोड़, 31 लाख, 36 हजार है और हमने उनको जो मुहैया कराया है, वह 26 करोड़, 20 लाख, 62 हजार है। 2006-2007 में डिमांड आई थी, 314 करोड़, 26 लाख, 57 हजार और हमने उनको मुहैया कराया, 53 करोड़, 29 लाख, 80 हजार। 2007-2008 में डिमांड आई थी, 431 करोड़, 26 लाख, हमने जो मुहैया कराया, 125 करोड़, 17 लाख, 8 हजार।

माननीय सांसद ने राजस्थान के बारे में पूछा था, तो राजस्थान ने इस वर्ष में मांगा था 4 करोड़, 89 लाख, 12 हजार और हमने उन्हें दिया है, 4 करोड़, 31 लाख, 68 हजार।

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय मंत्री जी ने सवाल का जवाब ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापतिः आपने जो सवाल पूछा थां, उसका जवाब आ गया है।

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदीः मेरा यह कहना था कि बकाया कितना था और कब दे रहे हैं? मैं यह सवाल इसलिए पूछना चाहता हूं कि मैंने स्पेशल मेंशन में लगातार यह सवाल उठाया था कि राजस्थान के राज्यों में OBC स्टूडेंट्स का एजिटेशन हो रहा है। वे मांग कर रहे हैं। केन्द्र सरकार लगातार पैसा कम दे रही है। वह कितना पैसा देगी, मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं।

श्रीमती मीरा कुमारः माननीय सभापति जी, सम्मानित सांसद ने जो प्रश्न पूछा था, मैं समझती हूं कि मैंने उसका उत्तर दे दिया है और जहां तक एजिटेशन की बात है। एजिटेशन के लिए कोई कारण नहीं है, क्योंकि जितना इन्होंने मांगा था, हमने लगभग उतना दे दिया है। हमें पूरा देने में दिक्कत इसलिए आती है, क्योंकि यहां पर बजटरी constraints होते हैं और उसके अलावा जो कमिटिड लाइबिलिटी की बात शुरू में कही थी, उसको लेकर हमें प्रैक्टिकल दिक्कत आती है।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated, there are a number of States in favour of which there is no grant to OBC students because the States are defaulters. Now, my question is that if a State cannot furnish the utilization certificate, it is a matter between the Central Government and that State Government, but why should students suffer? The Central Government may do whatever they deem fit against the defaulting States, but why should students suffer? Why will the students of the current year not get the benefit? Students cannot be punished like this. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would see that the students are not deprived of this benefit.

श्रीमती मीरा कुमारः जो सम्मानित सांसद की चिंता है, I share his concern. I also feel that the students should not suffer. But we function in a federal structure and there are certain responsibilities, which have to be borne by the State Governments. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme under which we are releasing funds. All that we want the States to do is to give us the utilization certificate. So many times the fund is not released because the States have not bothered to give the utilisation certificate and so many times they do not make provision in their budget for committed liability. We keep pressing upon them to do it. I share hon. Member's concern.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: The students' share cannot be stopped. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणिः सर, कौन-कौन से राज्य डिफॉल्टर हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pany, please do not interrupt. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: The students' share cannot be curbed. Whatever stand may be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*... but not against the students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sarkar, please allow the other questions to proceed.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I would like to ask the hon. Minister: what is the number of beneficiaries in this scheme? I want to have a little more clarity on the number of beneficiaries that exist.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Well, the beneficiaries last year were 4,11,868. In 2005-06, there were 1,59,114 in 2004-05, there were 2,27,980 and in the year 2003-04, there were 2,34,589. So, you will see that gradually there has been an increase. In fact, in the year, 2006-07, we have nearly doubled the number. Nevertheless, I would like this number to go on multiplying and increasing.